

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sprinkler system comprising:  
one or more sprinklers each comprising a sprinkler valve adapted to regulate an  
amount of fluid delivered by the sprinkler in response to a control signal;  
5 a master unit adapted to transmit digital data; and  
a sprinkler controller comprising  
a receiver adapted to receive a signal representing the digital data;  
a media access controller adapted to obtain the digital data from the signal;  
and  
10 a processor adapted to produce the control signal based on the digital data  
obtained by the media access controller; and  
an output circuit adapted to provide the control signal to the sprinklers.
2. The sprinkler system of claim 1, wherein the digital data comprises data  
15 representing at least one of the group comprising:  
a desired sprinkler operation schedule;  
meteorological conditions; and  
a status of a fluid supply system supplying the fluid to the sprinklers.
- 20 3. The sprinkler system of claim 2, wherein the sprinkler controller further  
comprises:  
a timer adapted to provide a time signal representing a time of day;  
wherein the processor is adapted to provide the control signal based on the digital  
data obtained by the media access controller and the time signal.  
25
4. The sprinkler system of claim 1:  
wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive a sensor signal provided by one or  
more sensors; and  
wherein the processor is further adapted to provide the control signal based on the  
30 digital data obtained by the media access controller and the sensor signal.

5. The sprinkler system of claim 4, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one of the group comprising:

- 5 a pressure of the fluid,
- a flow rate of the fluid,
- a sunlight intensity,
- an ambient temperature, and
- a relative humidity.

10 6. The sprinkler system of claim 4, further comprising:  
the one or more sensors.

7. The sprinkler system of claim 1, wherein the sprinkler controller further comprises:

- 15 a keypad adapted to provide a keypad control signal in response to operation of the keypad;

wherein the processor is further adapted to provide the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller and the keypad control signal.

20 8. The sprinkler system of claim 1, wherein the sprinkler controller further comprises:

- a display adapted to display a status of the sprinkler controller.

25 9. The sprinkler system of claim 1, wherein the processor and the media access controller are implemented together as a single integrated circuit.

10. The sprinkler system of claim 1, wherein the receiver is a wireless receiver.

30 11. The sprinkler system of claim 10, wherein the receiver complies with a standard selected from the group consisting of:

IEEE 802.11;  
IEEE 802.11a;  
IEEE 802.11b;  
IEEE 802.11g;  
5 IEEE 802.11h;  
IEEE 802.11i;  
Short Messaging Service (SMS); and  
Analog Display Service Interface (ADSI).

10 12. The sprinkler system of claim 1, wherein the sprinkler controller further comprises:  
a memory adapted to store a sprinkler schedule; and  
wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the sprinkler schedule.

15 13. The sprinkler system of claim 12:  
wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the sprinkler schedule stored in the memory when the signal representing the digital data is unavailable.

20 14. The sprinkler system of claim 13:  
wherein the memory is non-volatile.

25 15. A sprinkler system comprising:  
one or more sprinkler means each comprising a sprinkler valve means for regulating an amount of fluid delivered by the sprinkler means in response to a control signal;  
master unit means for transmitting digital data; and  
sprinkler controller means comprising  
receiver means for receiving a signal representing the digital data;  
30 media access controller means for obtaining the digital data from the signal, and

processor means for producing the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller; and  
output means for providing the control signal to the sprinklers.

5           16.     The sprinkler system of claim 15, wherein the digital data comprises data representing at least one of the group comprising:  
a desired sprinkler operation schedule;  
meteorological conditions; and  
a status of a fluid supply system supplying the fluid to the sprinklers.

10           17.     The sprinkler system of claim 16, wherein the sprinkler controller means further comprises:  
timer means for providing a time signal representing a time of day;  
wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data  
15     obtained by the media access controller means and the time signal.

18.     The sprinkler system of claim 15:  
wherein the receiver means receives a sensor signal provided by one or more sensor means; and  
20           wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller means and the sensor signal.

19.     The sprinkler system of claim 18, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one of the group comprising:  
25           a pressure of the fluid,  
a flow rate of the fluid,  
a sunlight intensity,  
an ambient temperature, and  
a relative humidity.

30

20. The sprinkler system of claim 18, further comprising:  
the one or more sensor means.

21. The sprinkler system of claim 15, wherein the sprinkler controller means  
5 further comprises:  
keypad means for providing a keypad control signal in response to operation of the  
keypad means;

wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data  
obtained by the media access controller means and the keypad control signal.

10 22. The sprinkler system of claim 15, wherein the sprinkler controller means  
further comprises:  
display means for displaying a status of the sprinkler controller means.

15 23. The sprinkler system of claim 15, wherein the processor and the media access  
controller are implemented together as a single integrated circuit.

24. The sprinkler system of claim 15, wherein the receiver means is wireless.

20 25. The sprinkler system of claim 24, wherein the receiver means complies with a  
standard selected from the group consisting of:

IEEE 802.11;

IEEE 802.11a;

IEEE 802.11b;

25 IEEE 802.11g;

IEEE 802.11h;

IEEE 802.11i;

Short Messaging Service (SMS); and

Analog Display Service Interface (ADSI).

26. The sprinkler system of claim 15, wherein the sprinkler controller means further comprises:

memory means for storing a sprinkler schedule; and

wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the sprinkler  
5 schedule.

27. The sprinkler system of claim 26:

wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the sprinkler  
schedule stored in the memory means when the signal representing the digital data is  
10 unavailable.

28. The sprinkler system of claim 27:

wherein the memory means is non-volatile.

29. A sprinkler controller for controlling one or more sprinklers each comprising a sprinkler valve adapted to regulate an amount of fluid delivered by the sprinkler in response to a control signal, the sprinkler controller comprising:

- a receiver adapted to receive a signal representing digital data;
- 5 a media access controller adapted to obtain the digital data from the signal; and
- a processor adapted produce the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller; and
- an output circuit adapted to provide the control signal to the sprinklers.

10 30. The sprinkler controller of claim 29, wherein the digital data comprises data representing at least one of the group comprising:

- a desired sprinkler operation schedule;
- meteorological conditions; and
- a status of a fluid supply system supplying the fluid to the sprinklers.

15 31. The sprinkler controller of claim 30, further comprising:  
a timer adapted to provide a time signal representing a time of day;  
wherein the processor is adapted to provide the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller and the time signal.

20 32. The sprinkler controller of claim 29:  
wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive a sensor signal provided by one or more sensors; and

wherein the processor is further adapted to provide the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller and the sensor signal.

25 33. The sprinkler controller of claim 32, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one of the group comprising:

- a pressure of the fluid,
- 30 a flow rate of the fluid,

a sunlight intensity,  
an ambient temperature, and  
a relative humidity.

5           34.     The sprinkler controller of claim 32, further comprising:  
the one or more sensors.

          35.     The sprinkler controller of claim 29, further comprising:  
a keypad adapted to provide a keypad control signal in response to operation of the  
10   keypad;  
          wherein the processor is further adapted to provide the control signal based on the  
digital data obtained by the media access controller and the keypad control signal.

          36.     The sprinkler controller of claim 29, further comprising:  
15   a display adapted to display a status of the sprinkler controller.

          37.     The sprinkler controller of claim 29, wherein the processor and the media  
access controller are implemented together as a single integrated circuit.

20           38.     The sprinkler controller of claim 29, wherein the receiver is a wireless  
receiver.

          39.     The sprinkler controller of claim 38, wherein the receiver complies with a  
standard selected from the group consisting of:

25           IEEE 802.11;  
          IEEE 802.11a;  
          IEEE 802.11b;  
          IEEE 802.11g;  
          IEEE 802.11h;  
30           IEEE 802.11i;



Short Messaging Service (SMS); and  
Analog Display Service Interface (ADSI).

5        40.     The sprinkler controller of claim 29, further comprising:  
a memory adapted to store a sprinkler schedule; and  
wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the  
sprinkler schedule.

10       41.     The sprinkler controller of claim 40:  
wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the  
sprinkler schedule stored in the memory when the signal representing the digital data is  
unavailable.

15       42.     The sprinkler controller of claim 41:  
wherein the memory is non-volatile.

20       43.     A sprinkler controller for controlling one or more sprinklers each comprising  
a sprinkler valve adapted to regulate an amount of fluid delivered by the sprinkler in response  
to a control signal, the sprinkler controller comprising:  
receiver means for receiving a signal representing digital data;  
media access controller means for obtaining the digital data from the signal, and  
processor means for producing the control signal based on the digital data obtained by  
the media access controller means; and  
output circuit means for providing the control signal to the sprinklers.

25       44.     The sprinkler controller of claim 43, wherein the digital data comprises data  
representing at least one of the group comprising:  
a desired sprinkler operation schedule;  
meteorological conditions; and  
30       a status of a fluid supply system supplying the fluid to the sprinklers.

45. The sprinkler controller of claim 44, further comprising:  
timer means for providing a time signal representing a time of day;  
wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data  
5 obtained by the media access controller means and the time signal.

46. The sprinkler controller of claim 43:  
wherein the receiver means receives a sensor signal provided by one or more sensor  
means; and  
10 wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data  
obtained by the media access controller means and the sensor signal.

47. The sprinkler controller of claim 46, wherein the sensor signal represents at  
least one of the group comprising:

15 a pressure of the fluid,  
a flow rate of the fluid,  
a sunlight intensity,  
an ambient temperature, and  
a relative humidity.

20 48. The sprinkler controller of claim 46, further comprising:  
the one or more sensor means.

49. The sprinkler controller of claim 43, further comprising:  
25 keypad means for providing a keypad control signal in response to operation of the  
keypad means;

wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data  
obtained by the media access controller means and the keypad control signal.

30 50. The sprinkler controller of claim 43, further comprising:

display means for displaying a status of the sprinkler controller.

51. The sprinkler controller of claim 43, wherein the processor means and the media access controller means are implemented together as a single integrated circuit.

5

52. The sprinkler controller of claim 43, wherein the receiver means is wireless.

53. The sprinkler controller of claim 52, wherein the receiver means complies with a standard selected from the group consisting of:

10

IEEE 802.11;

IEEE 802.11a;

IEEE 802.11b;

IEEE 802.11g;

IEEE 802.11h;

15

IEEE 802.11i;

Short Messaging Service (SMS); and

Analog Display Service Interface (ADSI).

54. The sprinkler controller of claim 43, further comprising:

20

memory means for storing a sprinkler schedule; and

wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the sprinkler schedule.

55. The sprinkler controller of claim 54:

25

wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the sprinkler schedule stored in the memory means when the signal representing the digital data is unavailable.

56. The sprinkler controller of claim 55:

30

wherein the memory means is non-volatile.

57. A method for controlling one or more sprinklers each comprising a sprinkler valve adapted to regulate an amount of fluid delivered by the sprinkler in response to a control signal, the method comprising:

- 5 receiving a signal representing digital data;
- obtaining the digital data from the signal;
- decoding the digital data; and
- providing a control signal to the sprinklers based on the digital data.

10 58. The method of claim 57, wherein the digital data comprises data representing at least one of the group comprising:

- a desired sprinkler operation schedule;
- meteorological conditions; and
- a status of a fluid supply system supplying the fluid to the sprinklers.

15

59. The method of claim 58, further comprising:  
providing a time signal representing a time of day; and  
providing the control signal based on the digital data and the time signal.

20

60. The method of claim 57, further comprising:  
receiving a sensor signal; and  
providing the control signal based on the data and the sensor signal.

25

61. The method of claim 60, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one of the group comprising:

- a pressure of the fluid,
- a flow rate of the fluid,
- a sunlight intensity,
- an ambient temperature, and
- 30 a relative humidity.

62. The method of claim 57, further comprising:  
receiving a keypad control signal representing operation of a keypad; and  
providing the control signal based on the digital data and the keypad control signal.

5

63. The method of claim 57, further comprising:  
displaying a status of the sprinkler controller.

10

64. The method of claim 57, further comprising:  
storing a sprinkler schedule; and  
wherein control signal is based on the sprinkler schedule.

15

65. The method of claim 64, further comprising:  
producing the control signal based on the stored sprinkler schedule when the signal  
representing the digital data is unavailable.

20

66. A computer program embodying instructions executable by a computer for  
controlling one or more sprinklers each comprising a sprinkler valve adapted to regulate an  
amount of fluid delivered by the sprinkler in response to a control signal, the computer  
program comprising:

obtaining the digital data from a received signal representing the digital data;  
decoding the digital data; and  
providing a control signal to the sprinklers based on the data.

25

67. The computer program of claim 66, wherein the digital data comprises data  
representing at least one of the group comprising:

a desired sprinkler operation schedule;  
meteorological conditions; and  
a status of a fluid supply system supplying the fluid to the sprinklers.

30

68. The computer program of claim 67, further comprising:  
providing a time signal representing a time of day; and  
providing the control signal based on the digital data and the time signal.

5 69. The computer program of claim 66, further comprising:  
receiving a sensor signal; and  
providing the control signal based on the digital data and the sensor signal.

70. The computer program of claim 69, wherein the sensor signal represents at  
10 least one of the group comprising:  
a pressure of the fluid,  
a flow rate of the fluid,  
a sunlight intensity,  
an ambient temperature, and  
15 a relative humidity.

71. The computer program of claim 66, further comprising:  
receiving a keypad control signal representing operation of a keypad; and  
providing the control signal based on the digital data and the keypad control signal.

20 72. The computer program of claim 66, further comprising:  
displaying a status of the sprinkler controller.

73. The computer program of claim 66, further comprising:  
25 storing a sprinkler schedule; and  
wherein control signal is based on the sprinkler schedule.

74. The computer program of claim 73:  
producing the control signal based on the stored sprinkler schedule when the signal  
30 representing the digital data is unavailable.

75. An integrated circuit to control a sprinkler controller for controlling one or more sprinklers each comprising a sprinkler valve adapted to regulate the amount of fluid delivered by the sprinkler in response to a control signal, wherein the sprinkler controller comprises a receiver adapted to receive a signal representing digital data and an output circuit adapted to provide the control signal to the sprinklers in response to a control signal, the integrated circuit comprising:

a media access controller adapted to obtain digital data from a signal received by a receiver of the sprinkler controller, the signal representing the digital data, and

a processor adapted to produce the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller.

76. The integrated circuit of claim 75, wherein the digital data comprises data representing at least one of the group comprising:

a desired sprinkler operation schedule;

meteorological conditions; and

a status of a fluid supply system supplying the fluid to the sprinklers.

77. The integrated circuit of claim 75, wherein the sprinkler controller further comprises a sensor adapted to provide a sensor signal provided by one or more sensors in response to meteorological conditions:

wherein the processor is adapted to provide the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller and the sensor signal.

78. The integrated circuit of claim 77, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one of the group comprising:

sunlight intensity;

an ambient temperature; and

a relative humidity.

79. The integrated circuit of claim 75, wherein the sprinkler controller further comprises a timer adapted to provide a time signal representing a time of day:

wherein the processor is adapted to provide the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller and the time signal.

5

80. The integrated circuit of claim 75, further comprising:

a memory adapted to store a sprinkler schedule; and

wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the sprinkler schedule.

10

81. The integrated circuit of claim 80:

wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the sprinkler schedule stored in the memory when the signal representing the digital data is unavailable.

15

82. The integrated circuit of claim 81:

wherein the memory is non-volatile.

20

83. An integrated circuit to control a sprinkler controller for controlling one or more sprinklers each comprising a sprinkler valve adapted to regulate the amount of fluid delivered by the sprinkler in response to a control signal, wherein the sprinkler controller comprises a receiver adapted to receive a signal representing digital data and an output circuit adapted to provide the control signal to the sprinklers in response to a control signal, the integrated circuit comprising:

25

media access controller means for obtaining digital data from a signal received by a receiver of the sprinkler controller, the signal representing the digital data; and

processor means for producing the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller means.



84. The integrated circuit of claim 83, wherein the digital data comprises data representing at least one of the group comprising:

- a desired sprinkler operation schedule;
- meteorological conditions; and
- 5 a status of a fluid supply system supplying the fluid to the sprinklers.

85. The integrated circuit of claim 83, wherein the sprinkler controller further comprises a sensor adapted to provide a sensor signal provided by one or more sensors in response to meteorological conditions:

10 wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller means and the sensor signal.

86. The integrated circuit of claim 85, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one of the group comprising:

- 15 sunlight intensity;
- an ambient temperature; and
- a relative humidity.

87. The integrated circuit of claim 83, wherein the sprinkler controller further comprises a timer adapted to provide a time signal representing a time of day:

20 wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller means and the time signal.

88. The integrated circuit of claim 83, further comprising:

- 25 memory means for storing a sprinkler schedule; and
- wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the sprinkler schedule.

89. The integrated circuit of claim 88:

wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the sprinkler schedule stored in the memory means when the signal representing the digital data is unavailable.

- 5           90.     The integrated circuit of claim 89:  
            wherein the memory means is non-volatile.

91. A method for serving a sprinkler system comprising one or more sprinklers and a sprinkler controller adapted to control the sprinklers, the method comprising:  
obtaining sprinkler-related data;  
generating a schedule for the sprinkler system based on the sprinkler-related data; and  
5 transmitting the sprinkler schedule to the sprinkler controller;  
wherein the sprinkler controller controls the sprinklers according to the sprinkler schedule.

92. The method of claim 91, wherein the sprinkler-related data is selected from  
10 the group consisting of:  
meteorological conditions; and  
a status of a fluid supply system supplying fluid to the sprinklers.

93. The method of claim 91, wherein the sprinkler system further comprises one  
15 or more sensors, further comprising:  
receiving a sensor signal from one or more of the sensors, the sensor signal representing a condition of the sprinkler system; and  
generating the schedule for the sprinkler system based on the sprinkler-related data and the sensor signal.

20

94. The method of claim 93, further comprising:  
determining a condition of the sprinkler system based on the sensor signal;  
determining a service for the sprinkler system in accordance with the condition of the sprinkler system; and  
25 providing the service for the sprinkler system.

25

95. The method of claim 93, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one of the group comprising:  
a pressure of a fluid supplied to the sprinklers; and  
30 a flow rate of the fluid.

30

96. The method of claim 94, wherein the service for the sprinkler system is selected from the group consisting of:

5 interrupting a flow of fluid supplied to the sprinkler system;  
repairing one or more of the sprinklers; and  
repairing supply line providing fluid to one or more of the sprinklers.

97. The method of claim 94, further comprising:  
determining a cost of the service provided for the sprinkler system;  
10 generating an invoice for the cost of the service; and  
providing the invoice to a custodian of the sprinkler system.

98. A computer-implemented method for serving a sprinkler system comprising  
one or more sprinklers and a sprinkler controller adapted to control the sprinklers, the  
15 computer-implemented method comprising:  
obtaining sprinkler-related data;  
generating a schedule for the sprinkler system based on the sprinkler-related data; and  
transmitting the sprinkler schedule to the sprinkler controller;  
wherein the sprinkler controller controls the sprinklers according to the sprinkler  
20 schedule.

99. The computer-implemented method of claim 98, wherein the sprinkler-related data is selected from the group consisting of:  
meteorological conditions; and  
25 a status of a fluid supply system supplying fluid to the sprinklers.

100. The computer-implemented method of claim 98, wherein the sprinkler system further comprises one or more sensors, further comprising:  
receiving a sensor signal from one or more of the sensors, the sensor signal  
30 representing a condition of the sprinkler system; and

generating the schedule for the sprinkler system based on the sprinkler-related data;  
and the sensor signal.

5           101.   The computer-implemented method of claim 100, further comprising:  
determining a condition of the sprinkler system based on the sensor signal;  
determining a service for the sprinkler system in accordance with the condition of the  
sprinkler system; and  
providing the service for the sprinkler system.

10           102.   The computer-implemented method of claim 100, wherein the sensor signal  
represents at least one of the group comprising:  
a pressure of a fluid supplied to the sprinklers; and  
a flow rate of the fluid.

15           103.   The computer-implemented method of claim 101, wherein the service for the  
sprinkler system is selected from the group consisting of:  
interrupting a flow of fluid supplied to the sprinkler system;  
repairing one or more of the sprinklers; and  
repairing supply line providing fluid to one or more of the sprinklers.

20           104.   The computer-implemented method of claim 101, further comprising:  
determining a cost of the service provided for the sprinkler system;  
generating an invoice for the cost of the service; and  
providing the invoice to a custodian of the sprinkler system.

25

105. An environmental control system comprising:  
an environmental control unit adapted to control one or more environmental variables  
in response to a control signal;  
a master unit adapted to transmit digital data; and  
5 a controller comprising  
a receiver adapted to receive a signal representing the digital data;  
a media access controller adapted to obtain the digital data from the signal,  
and  
a processor adapted to produce the control signal based on the digital data  
10 obtained by the media access controller; and  
an output circuit adapted to provide the control signal to the environmental control  
unit.

106. The environmental control system of claim 105, wherein the digital data  
15 comprises data representing at least one of the group comprising:  
a desired ambient temperature; and  
meteorological conditions.

107. The environmental control system of claim 105:  
20 wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive a sensor signal provided by one or  
more sensors in response to meteorological conditions; and  
wherein the processor is further adapted to provide the control signal based on the  
digital data obtained by the media access controller and the sensor signal.

108. The environmental control system of claim 107, wherein the sensor signal  
25 represents at least one of the group comprising:  
a sunlight intensity,  
an ambient temperature, and  
a relative humidity.

109. The environmental control system of claim 107, further comprising:  
the one or more sensors.

110. The environmental control system of claim 105, wherein the controller further  
5 comprises:

a keypad adapted to provide a keypad control signal in response to operation of the  
keypad;

wherein the processor is adapted to provide the control signal based on the digital  
data obtained by the media access controller and the keypad control signal.

111. The environmental control system of claim 105, wherein the controller further  
10 comprises:

a display adapted to display a status of the controller.

112. The environmental control system of claim 105, wherein the processor and the  
15 media access controller are implemented together as a single integrated circuit.

113. The environmental control system of claim 105, wherein the receiver is a  
wireless receiver.

114. The environmental control system of claim 113, wherein the receiver  
20 complies with a standard selected from the group consisting of:

IEEE 802.11;

IEEE 802.11a;

25 IEEE 802.11b;

IEEE 802.11g;

IEEE 802.11h;

IEEE 802.11i;

Short Messaging Service (SMS); and

30 Analog Display Service Interface (ADSI).

115. The environmental control system of claim 105, wherein the controller further comprises:

a memory adapted to store a schedule; and

5 wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the schedule.

116. The environmental control system of claim 115:

10 wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the schedule stored in the memory when the signal representing the digital data is unavailable.

117. The environmental control system of claim 116:

wherein the memory is non-volatile.

118. An environmental control system comprising:

15 environmental control unit means for controlling one or more environmental variables in response to a control signal;

master unit means for transmitting digital data; and

controller means comprising

20 receiver means for receiving a signal representing the digital data;

media access controller means for obtaining the digital data from the signal,

and

digital signal processor means for producing the control signal based on the

digital data obtained by the media access controller means; and

25 output circuit means for providing the control signal to the environmental control unit means.

119. The environmental control system of claim 118, wherein the digital data comprises data representing at least one of the group comprising:

30 a desired ambient temperature; and



meteorological conditions.

120. The environmental control system of claim 118:

wherein the receiver means receives a sensor signal provided by one or more sensors  
5 means in response to meteorological conditions; and  
wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data  
obtained by the media access controller means and the sensor signal.

121. The environmental control system of claim 120, wherein the sensor signal  
10 represents at least one of the group comprising:

a sunlight intensity,  
an ambient temperature, and  
a relative humidity.

122. The environmental control system of claim 120, further comprising:  
15 the one or more sensor means.

123. The environmental control system of claim 118, wherein the controller means  
further comprises:

20 keypad means for providing a keypad control signal in response to operation of the  
keypad means;

wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data  
obtained by the media access controller means and the keypad control signal.

124. The environmental control system of claim 118, wherein the controller means  
25 further comprises:

display means displaying a status of the controller means.

125. The environmental control system of claim 118, wherein the processor and the  
30 media access controller are implemented together as a single integrated circuit.

126. The environmental control system of claim 118, wherein the receiver means is wireless.

5 127. The environmental control system of claim 126, wherein the receiver means complies with a standard selected from the group consisting of:

IEEE 802.11;

IEEE 802.11a;

IEEE 802.11b;

10 IEEE 802.11g;

IEEE 802.11h;

IEEE 802.11i;

Short Messaging Service (SMS); and

Analog Display Service Interface (ADSI).

15 128. The environmental control system of claim 118, wherein the controller means further comprises:

memory means for storing a schedule; and

wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the schedule.

20 129. The environmental control system of claim 128:  
wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the schedule stored in the memory means when the signal representing the digital data is unavailable.

25 130. The environmental control system of claim 129:  
wherein the memory means is non-volatile.

131. A controller for controlling an environmental control unit, the controller comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive a signal representing digital data;  
a media access controller adapted to obtain the digital data from the signal; and  
5 a processor adapted to produce a control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller; and  
an output circuit adapted to provide the control signal to the environmental control unit.

10 132. The controller of claim 131, wherein the digital data comprises data representing at least one of the group comprising:

a desired ambient temperature; and  
meteorological conditions.

15 133. The controller of claim 131:  
wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive a sensor signal provided by one or more sensors in response to environmental conditions; and  
wherein the processor is further adapted to provide the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller and the sensor signal.

20 134. The controller of claim 133, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one of the group comprising:

a sunlight intensity,  
an ambient temperature, and  
25 a relative humidity.

135. The controller of claim 133, further comprising:  
the one or more sensors.

30 136. The controller of claim 131, further comprising:

a keypad adapted to provide a keypad control signal in response to operation of the keypad;

wherein the processor is adapted to provide the control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller and the keypad control signal.

5

137. The controller of claim 131, further comprising:  
a display adapted to display a status of the controller.

138. A thermostat comprising the controller of claim 131.

10

139. The controller of claim 131, wherein the processor and the media access controller are implemented together as a single integrated circuit.

140. The controller of claim 131, wherein the receiver is a wireless receiver.

15

141. The controller of claim 140, wherein the receiver complies with a standard selected from the group consisting of:

IEEE 802.11;

IEEE 802.11a;

20

IEEE 802.11b;

IEEE 802.11g;

IEEE 802.11h;

IEEE 802.11i;

Short Messaging Service (SMS); and

25

Analog Display Service Interface (ADSI).

142. The controller of claim 131, further comprising:

a memory adapted to store a schedule; and

wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the

30

schedule.

143. The controller of claim 142:

wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the schedule stored in the memory when the signal representing the digital data is unavailable.

5

144. The controller of claim 143:

wherein the memory is non-volatile.

145. A controller for controlling an environmental control unit, the controller  
10 comprising:

receiver means for receiving a signal representing digital data;

media access controller means for obtaining the digital data from the signal, and

processor means for producing a control signal based on the digital data obtained by  
the media access controller means; and

15 output circuit means for providing the control signal to the environmental control  
unit.

146. The controller of claim 145, wherein the digital data comprises data  
representing at least one of the group comprising:

20 a desired ambient temperature; and

meteorological conditions.

147. The controller of claim 145:

25 wherein the receiver means receives a sensor signal provided by one or more sensors  
means in response to environmental conditions; and

wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data  
obtained by the media access controller means and the sensor signal.

148. The controller of claim 147, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one  
30 of the group comprising:

a sunlight intensity,  
an ambient temperature, and  
a relative humidity.

5        149. The controller of claim 147, further comprising:  
the one or more sensors means.

150. The controller of claim 145, further comprising:  
keypad means for providing a keypad control signal in response to operation of the  
10 keypad means;  
wherein the processor means provides the control signal based on the digital data  
obtained by the media access controller means and the keypad control signal.

151. The controller of claim 145, further comprising:  
15 display means for displaying a status of the controller means.

152. A thermostat comprising the controller of claim 145.

153. The controller of claim 145, wherein the processor and the media access  
20 controller are implemented together as a single integrated circuit.

154. The controller of claim 145, wherein the receiver means is wireless.

155. The controller of claim 154, wherein the receiver means complies with a  
25 standard selected from the group consisting of:

IEEE 802.11;  
IEEE 802.11a;  
IEEE 802.11b;  
IEEE 802.11g;  
30 IEEE 802.11h;

IEEE 802.11i;  
Short Messaging Service (SMS); and  
Analog Display Service Interface (ADSI).

5        156.    The controller of claim 145, further comprising:  
memory means for storing a schedule; and  
wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the schedule.

10        157.    The controller of claim 156:  
wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the schedule  
stored in the memory means when the signal representing the digital data is unavailable.

15        158.    The controller of claim 157:  
wherein the memory means is non-volatile.

159.    A method for controlling an environmental control unit, the method  
comprising:  
receiving a signal representing digital data;  
obtaining the digital data from the signal; and  
20        providing a control signal to the environmental control unit based on the digital data.

160.    The method of claim 159, wherein the digital data comprises data representing  
at least one of the group comprising:  
a desired ambient temperature; and  
25        meteorological conditions.

161.    The method of claim 159, further comprising:  
receiving a sensor signal provided by one or more sensors in response to  
environmental conditions; and  
30        providing the control signal based on the digital data and the sensor signal.

162. The method of claim 161, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one of the group comprising:

5 a sunlight intensity,  
an ambient temperature, and  
a relative humidity.

163. The method of claim 159, further comprising:  
receiving a keypad control signal representing operation of a keypad; and  
10 providing the control signal based on the digital data and the keypad control signal.

164. The method of claim 159, further comprising:  
displaying a status of the sprinkler controller.

15 165. The method of claim 159, further comprising:  
storing a schedule; and  
wherein control signal is based on the schedule.

166. The method of claim 165, further comprising:  
20 producing the control signal based on the stored schedule when the signal  
representing the digital data is unavailable.

167. A computer program embodying instructions executable by a computer to  
control an environmental control unit, the computer program comprising:  
25 obtaining digital data from a received signal representing the digital data; and  
providing a control signal to the environmental control unit based on the digital data.

168. The computer program of claim 167, wherein the digital data comprises data  
representing at least one of the group comprising:  
30 a desired ambient temperature; and



meteorological conditions.

169. The computer program of claim 167, further comprising:  
receiving a sensor signal provided by one or more sensors in response to  
5 environmental conditions; and  
providing the control signal based on the data and the sensor signal.

170. The computer program of claim 169, wherein the sensor signal represents at  
least one of the group comprising:  
10 a sunlight intensity,  
an ambient temperature, and  
a relative humidity.

171. The computer program of claim 167, further comprising:  
15 receiving a keypad control signal representing operation of a keypad; and  
providing the control signal based on the digital data and the keypad control signal.

172. The computer program of claim 167, further comprising:  
displaying a status of the sprinkler controller.

20 173. The computer program of claim 167, further comprising:  
storing a schedule; and  
wherein control signal is based on the schedule.

25 174. The computer program of claim 173:  
producing the control signal based on the stored schedule when the signal  
representing the digital data is unavailable.

175. An integrated circuit to control a controller for controlling an environmental control unit, the integrated circuit comprising:

a media access controller adapted to obtain digital data from a signal received by a receiver of the controller, the signal representing the digital data; and

5 a processor adapted to produce a control signal based on the digital data obtained by the media access controller;

wherein the controller provides the control signal to the environmental control unit.

176. The integrated circuit of claim 175, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one of the group comprising:

sunlight intensity;

an ambient temperature; and

a relative humidity.

177. The integrated circuit of claim 175, further comprising a display, and wherein: the processor causes the display to display a status of the controller.

178. The integrated circuit of claim 175, wherein the digital data comprises data representing at least one of the group comprising:

20 a desired ambient temperature; and

meteorological conditions.

179. The integrated circuit of claim 175, further comprising:

a memory adapted to store a schedule; and

25 wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the schedule.

180. The integrated circuit of claim 179:

30 wherein the processor is further adapted to produce the control signal based on the schedule stored in the memory when the signal representing the digital data is unavailable.

181. The integrated circuit of claim 180:  
wherein the memory is non-volatile.

5 182. An integrated circuit to control a controller for controlling an environmental control unit, the integrated circuit comprising:  
media access controller means for obtaining digital data from a signal received by a receiver of the controller, the signal representing the digital data; and  
processor means for producing a control signal based on the digital data obtained by  
10 the media access controller means;  
wherein the controller provides the control signal to the environmental control unit.

183. The integrated circuit of claim 182, wherein the sensor signal represents at least one of the group comprising:  
15 sunlight intensity;  
an ambient temperature; and  
a relative humidity.

184. The integrated circuit of claim 182, further comprising a display, and wherein:  
20 the processor means causes the display to display a status of the controller.

185. The integrated circuit of claim 182, wherein the digital data comprises data representing at least one of the group comprising:  
a desired ambient temperature; and  
25 meteorological conditions.

186. The integrated circuit of claim 182, further comprising:  
memory means for storing a schedule; and  
wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the schedule.

30

187. The integrated circuit of claim 186:

wherein the processor means produces the control signal based on the schedule stored in the memory means when the signal representing the digital data is unavailable.

5

188. The integrated circuit of claim 187:

wherein the memory means is non-volatile.

189. The sprinkler system of claim 10, wherein the receiver comprises pager technology.

10

190. The sprinkler system of claim 24, wherein the receiver means comprises pager technology.

15

191. The sprinkler controller of claim 38, wherein the receiver comprises pager technology.

192. The sprinkler controller of claim 52, wherein the receiver means comprises pager technology.

20

193. The environmental control system of claim 113, wherein the receiver comprises pager technology.

194. The environmental control system of claim 126, wherein the receiver means comprises pager technology.

25

195. The controller of claim 140, wherein the receiver comprises pager technology.

196. The controller system of claim 154, wherein the receiver means comprises pager technology.

30